

## **PSC NEWS**Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly Phone: (573) 751-9300 Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-03-147

## PSC CHAIRMAN SPEAKS AT AMERENUE "DOLLAR MORE CLEAN SLATE" PRESS CONFERENCE

Jefferson City (April 30, 2003)---Missouri Public Service Commission Chairman Kelvin Simmons joined Governor Bob Holden, several area dignitaries and AmerenUE officials as the state's largest electric utility kicked off a \$3 million initiative called "AmerenUE Dollar More Clean Slate" with a press conference in St. Louis this afternoon.

"This program is the result of an agreement approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission in July of last year," stated Chairman Kelvin Simmons. "In addition to offering help to customers in paying their utility bills, the agreement provides for a total of \$110 million in electric rate reductions for all AmerenUE customers by April 2004 (\$50 million in April of 2002, \$30 million in April 2003, and \$30 million in April 2004). In addition to rate reductions, this agreement provided a one-time bill credit of approximately \$40 million for AmerenUE customers last fall as well as customer-assistance programs that are to be funded solely by AmerenUE's shareholders. One such program is AmerenUE's Dollar More Clean Slate," stated Chairman Simmons.

"Last month, the Public Service Commission sounded the alarm as to the potential for higher natural gas prices this winter," stated Simmons. "This program will help provide some relief to those customers in need heading into winter."

AmerenUE's Dollar More Clean Slate, scheduled to run through the month of May, will last as long as funding is available. It is designed to help AmerenUE electric and natural gas customers eliminate past due bills and begin anew.

"Whether it is Congress, the Missouri Legislature or parties in a case before the Public Service Commission," stated Chairman Simmons, "I am always interested in exploring ways to help those who are in need. Parties in the 2002 case recognized a need and addressed that need. The Dollar More Clean Slate program is one of the results of those efforts," said Chairman Simmons.